

Around the Rialto

(CHURCH NEWS 03-14-10)

Welcome to Our Visitors!

For our first time visitors, please fill out the **Welcome** card in the pew rack and stop by the Welcome/Information Center— we have a gift for you! We pray you have experienced the presence of God here at Venice Presbyterian Church.

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY @ VPC

Those who wish to **consider membership** or affiliate membership are invited to participate in an **orientation dinner, Thursday evening, March 25 from 6-8 p.m.** Pizza will be served. Prospective members meet the pastors, learn more about our Presbyterian heritage and polity, our ministries, and connect with new friends. We will continue our orientation on Saturday, March 27 from 9—11 a.m. Please sign up on the Ministry patio today, or call the church office, 488-2258.

CROP HUNGER WALK

We are finalizing the numbers for the CROP Walk and Concert. We will be out on the patio today to collect envelopes and money pledged in support of our staff. If you still have an envelope and did not bring it with you today, please drop it off in the church office this week. The hungry people in our community and in communities around the world THANK YOU. Should you have any questions, please call Glenn Breitzig 480-9034.



Community Concert Series

RICHARD MORRIS

MARCH 19—7 PM

Richard has appeared on the Today Show, and performed at Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. He has performed live broadcasts of National Public Radio's "Performance Today."

BUY one ticket @ \$10 get ONE free!

JOIN us... WEDNESDAYS 11 AM

- **March 17** — Gene Hodges, organ, "The Christian Year Through Hymns"
- **March 24** — Linda Petersen, organ



Lenten Devotionals are available at the Information Center.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

8, 9:30 & 11 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

At 6 PM we will be holding a traditional **Jewish Seder Dinner** as Jesus and his disciples celebrated on Maundy Thursday. We encourage families to attend and participate. Please sign up on the Ministry patio today. (Limited space available in Fellowship Hall.) A free will offering will be received at the dinner.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE — 7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE — 2 PM

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

8, 9:30 & 11 AM

Celebrated music featuring choirs, brass and pipe organ. Inspiring new message series by *Pastor Chris Romig*, **Live Without Fear: "Why Are We Afraid?"**

Worship

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The main floral arrangement in the Sanctuary is given today by Ellen White and her family in loving memory of *Don White*. The red rose is in celebrating of the birth of *Becker Reeves Fedako* born January 26, 2010, to Jim and Shelly Fedako, and grandson of John and Georgie Ann Fedako.

WEDNESDAY MORNING COMMUNION

There's an opportunity to gather for worship every Wednesday morning. VPC members, friends, and visitors gather in the sanctuary for a contemplative service of prayer and communion. All are invited to enter God's house, to the peaceful sound of meditative piano music and experience this mid-week spiritual lift. One of the pastors offers brief words of reflection on Scripture, followed by a time of silent and spoken prayers and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The service begins at 9 a.m. and concludes before 9:30.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer shawls are available for use during the worship service by anyone needing spiritual and/or physical comfort. Please ask an usher. If you wish to have a prayer shawl to take home, please contact Peg Moffett, 485-9204.

AUDIO CDs OF TODAY'S SERVICE

You may pick up your reserved copy, request a copy at the Information Center, or contact the church office, 488-2258. Cost is \$3 each. If you have internet access, you may listen to the sermons at www.venicepresbyterian.org.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICES 8, 9:30 & 11 AM

MARCH 21

Pastor Chris Romig
"The Agony of Defeat"

MARCH 28

Pastor Lyn Olson
"The Triumph of Hope"

EASTER SERIES

Begins Sunday, April 4th

Live Without Fear

Each sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. Layoffs at work, slowdowns in the economy, flare-ups in the Middle East, downturns in the housing market, and upswings in global warming. Oversized and rude, fear herds us into a prison and slams the door. Wouldn't it be great to walk out? Join us for a life changing study—**FEARLESS.**

SEASONAL DECORATIONS

If you wish to help defray the expenses of decorating for the Easter season, envelopes are provided in the pews. Contributions may be made in honor of, or in memory of a loved one. Names will be posted in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

For information on any of our VPC choirs, please contact Warren Apple, 488-2258.

Join A
Choir

Fellowship

MEN'S MINISTRY

- **Annual VPC Golf Tournament** will be held Monday, April 26 at the Lake Venice Golf Course. Make plans now to play in this modified best ball, handicap tournament. If past years are any indication, it should be great fun! See Rich Nicholas for details and to sign up. The Tournament is open to all.
- **Men's Friday Group** meets at 8 a.m. in CMC II. Join us for coffee, fellowship, and an interesting discussion.

WOMEN'S SERENDIPITY BIBLE STUDY RETREAT

Join us for an afternoon social, dinner, evening worship, overnight stay, and meaningful small group meetings at Our Lady of Perpetual Hope Retreat Center in Venice on April 20 and 21. If you are interested in attending, please pick up a registration form on the Ministry patio today or call the church office, 488-2258. Registration is limited to 52 women. The cost is \$125, double occupancy. Limited scholarships are available.

VPC TRAVELERS

For information on any of our travel adventures, please check out the Kiosk near the Information Center. Our next trip will be March 27, **Cirque Dreams Illumination**. Check out the Kiosk for additional trips and information or contact Patricia Bullock, 493-7866, or Barbara Price, 497-0854.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

2010 offering envelopes are available in the church office during the week.

WELCOME INVITE CARDS

Stop by the Information Center today to receive welcome invite cards for you to use to invite friends and neighbors to worship at VPC, or attend other events and mission projects.

BBT EVENT

(Breaking Bread Together, formerly F.E.A.S.T.)

Everyone is encouraged to sign up today at the fellowship table on the Ministry patio. Meet new friends over dinner in member's homes. Our next fellowship dinner will be on **Sunday, March 21**. The theme is "March Madness." The time is set by the hostess home. For additional information, please call Patricia Bullock, 493-7866 or Barbara Price, 497-0854.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- **SPA DAY**, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Are you ready for an island cruise? Set sail for Port Paradise. Have fun with your friends and guests from beginning to end relaxing on deck, experiencing shore excursions, and meditating on God's wisdom for sailing the seas of life. \$5 tickets available on the Ministry patio today, or reserve to Barbara Edwards, 492-6617, or your circle leader. **All women are welcome!**

VIP SINGLES

Whether you are unmarried, divorced, or widowed, member or friend of the church, all ages are welcome to join our singles family. Pick up a copy of our **Winter Newsletter** at the Kiosk near the Information Center. For additional information, please call Jan Marshall, 497-1075.

VPC GOLF SHIRTS

We are placing orders now for the new VPC logo shirts. (Great shirts for the upcoming Annual Golf Outing.) If you would like to order one, please call the church office, 488-2258, or stop in to see sample sizes. Sample shirts are also available to see at the information Center today.

Happy Birthday 90+

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------|-------------|
| Bertha Ryan | 16 |

Spiritual Growth

CONNECTIONS GROUP



“**Connections**” is a Sunday morning gathering of adults of all ages who are interested and willing to engage in informal, personal conversation about the “connection” of our faith to daily life. In the process, we examine biblical texts, church doctrines, religious & secular books, and personal experience as we make closer “connections” with God and each other. Our current study is M. Scott Peck’s book, *The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values, and Spiritual Growth*. Drop into Room #8 (no prior attendance or reservation is required) on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 where you will be most welcome to join in challenging study and discussion facilitated by Pastor Chuck. Copies of Peck’s book are available for \$10 by contacting Pastor Chuck.

BETH MOORE

SERENDIPITY BIBLE STUDY

There is still time to join the Beth Moore Bible Study for women. A gifted teacher and passionate Christ-follower, Beth Moore shares Biblical insights and observations in this DVD-based study called *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit*. Workbooks can be purchased for \$20. Call the church office to reserve a workbook, 488-2258, then join us every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. Childcare provided. Women’s Retreat, April 20 and 21. See page 3 for details.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

THE GOSPEL IN INDIA

Join us as Pastor Chris Romig and Bob Nelson (President of India Outreach Ministries) present an inspiring look at God’s work in India. This weekly series will include pictures and video footage from their recent mission trip. These Wednesday evening sessions will meet in the sanctuary from 6—7 p.m. All are welcome, and no sign-up is required.

THE POWER OF A GODLY GRANDPARENT

Whether your grandchildren live across the country, down the street, or down the hall, this study led by Pastor Ruffin and others will demonstrate how to leave a spiritual legacy.

- Give your grandchildren the power of unconditional love.
- Give your grandchildren the power of your own testimony of faith.
- Give your grandchildren the power of your prayers.

Cost: \$11 (for participant book). Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Room 8.

If you have local friends or neighbors whom you would like to receive special mailings for our church’s community outreach events, only (Advent or Lenten services, concert events, etc.) **or** be included in our weekly pastor’s e-note, please share these names, addresses, and email address with our church. Email: cander-son@venicepresbyterian.org or call the church office, 488-2258.

Ministry

Church Calendar

Week of March 14—20

Sunday, March 14

9 am—Connections Class, Room 8
4 pm—Contemporary Choir, Choir Room

Monday, March 15

9 am—3 M's (Monday Membership), Workroom 2
12 pm—Prayer Shawl Ministry, Fellowship Hall
12:30 pm—Presbyterian Women Planning, Room 8

Tuesday, March 16

Grounds Beautification Team, Church Grounds
2:30 pm—Beth Moore Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm—Al-Anon, CMC I

Wednesday, March 17

9 am—Mid-Week Communion Service, Sanctuary
9:30 am—Prayer Group, Heritage Room
6:15 pm—Chamber Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
7:30 pm—Nominating Committee, Room 8

Thursday, March 18

9:30 am—Worship Council Meeting, Heritage Room
11 am—Presbyterian Women Bible Study Ldr, Choir Room
2 pm—Session, Room 8
6 pm—Handbell Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, March 19

8:30 am—Bulletin Volunteers, Room 8

Saturday, March 20

10 am—Buddy Break, Campus

We believe that God calls every Christian to a form of ministry that can bring unmatched joy and fulfillment to life. We invite each person to explore how their unique gifts, talents, resources, individuality, dreams, and experiences might shape them for a particular avenue of service to God. Contact any of our pastors to explore thrilling possibilities!

HINT FOR HEALTH

While praying, seek the higher emotions of generosity, gratitude, compassion, forgiveness, and humility.

PASTORS E-NEWS

If you have friends or neighbors whom you would like to receive our weekly e-note from the pastor, please contact the church office, 488-2258 with their email address.

In order to **use any rooms in our facility**, or if your ministry needs space on the **Ministry Patio** on Sundays, you **must** call the church office to reserve a room or space. *Thank You.* 488-2258.

Missions

CHINLE MISSION TRIP

All persons interested in the mission trip to Chinle, AZ, June 19 through 26 are requested to attend a meeting Sunday, March 21 at 3:30 p.m. at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 2050 Bay St., Sarasota. If you need a ride or directions, please call Frank and Marge Kaprive, 497-3735.

SOUTH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

After worship today, paper grocery bags with information about the food collection will be distributed. Please take as many bags as you wish and return them next Sunday. The main collection point will be at the bridge at the front of the parking lot. Volunteers will be available to assist with your donation at the bridge and at the Firenze Avenue entrance. Requests for assistance at the food pantry keep growing by leaps and bounds. Our high unemployment rate has forced many former givers to become receivers. The number of families receiving assistance is now over 500 per month. While the South County Food Pantry takes pride in its ability to keep its doors open, it only happens from the support of major donors like us. Please take this opportunity to help those less fortunate than us. Next Sunday, a pick up truck will be available to receive your donations. Let's have that truck overflowing with donations. Want to help with next week's collection (March 21), please sign up at the Mission table on the Ministry patio today.

MARCH MONTHLY MISSION GIVING

The March offering will maintain our support of Erick and Cynthia Estrada in Guatemala. They are providing a Christian home for eleven children, eight previously homeless, where they home school and teach them the love of Jesus Christ. In addition Cynthia continues to give Bible lessons at Cortijo, site of the clinic, and at several other villages.

HAITI MISSION TRIP

For the sixth year, a mission team from VPC will travel to Ouanaminthe, Haiti, to lead Summer Camp for about 300 children. The devastating earthquake did not damage buildings in Ouanaminthe, but its impact has profoundly affected families throughout Haiti. Summer camp will be important to lift the spirits of the children and continue to bring a word of hope, encouragement and God's love in a most difficult time. About twelve people from VPC will be on the team. Our team will be assisted by persons from Siesta Key Chapel and First Baptist in Woodtown, NJ. The cost per person is about \$1,100. Some VPC members of the team need financial assistance in order to be part of this vital mission. You can be part of the team by contributing to the Haiti Mission Team with your prayers and financial assistance. Checks should be made out to VPC and designated for "Haiti Mission Team." Please contact Pastor Howard for additional information.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR SCHOOL IN HAITI

If you or any friends have any musical instruments you will never play again, or you can encourage your friends and neighbors to search through their attics to see if they have any, we will gather them together and arrange to get them shipped over to the school in Haiti. Contact: **Bram Bone 961-9168**. We can arrange to pick up or you can bring them to church on Sunday. If you don't have instruments, but would like to help in some way, monetary contributions would be appreciated. The money will allow us to purchase beginners books, music stands and get repairs carried out so that all the instruments we send are in good working order. Earmark checks for Musical Instruments Haiti.

For additional information on Missions at VPC, check out our Short Term Mission Brochure. Copies are available at our Kiosk near the Information Center.

Caring Ministries

PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Recent surgery or hospitalization: Dave Clark, Mailouise Downing, Jill Engel, Esther James, Mary Gaston.

Special Concerns: Peg Bloker, Vi Buehler, Rich Brooks, Harry Hutchinson, Ruth Johnson, Joan Pope, Les Stephenson, Bob Sykes, Mollie Watters, Bill Webb.

In Care Facilities: Mollie Asch, Don Bloker, Elizabeth Boyd, Mary Brown, Jessie Calhoun, Arabella Fry, Edie Gardner, Ruth Godefroy, Julia Henderson, Alida Holman, Bob and Lillian Jagel, Bob Kempes, Ann Kek, Doris Long, Marie Moore, Jean Patton, Bill Ridley, John Rommel, Bob Schramm, Dorothy Wallace, Jean West-Walker.

Bereavement: Judy Auerbach, Laura Bennawy, Kay Herron, Christel Wheeler, Chris Wilhelm.

If you or someone you know is hospitalized, please notify the church office.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CLOSET

If you need medical equipment in your home this week, please contact, Richard Phillips, 485-8834.

CARE AND REPAIR

Call us for help with light repairs to the inside or outside of your home. Call Bob Mowers, 488-4262, and let us know of your needs.

We Express Our Christian Sympathy to:



The family of **Jack Wheeler** whose death occurred March 4, 2010. A memorial service was held Friday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Prayer Request Cards — are located in the pews. They may be placed in the offering plate or the box located on the prayer table on the patio. Requests submitted via the prayer cards are confidential, and are prayed for by the church's pastors and prayer teams.

Prayer Chain Requests —When life is overwhelming, remember God is always there to ease your heavy burdens. Please call the Prayer Chain with your request, Dorothy Brown, 486-5198.

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Knitters meet at noon on Mondays in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or know someone who would be comforted with a prayer shawl, please contact Peg Moffett 485-9204.

Catherine Morton Prayer Group — meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to pray for those in need. These communal prayers bring hope, love and healing. The group sends cards for all special occasions and invites you to sign them on Sundays, before and after worship services.

Have A Heart — we encourage you to continue to pray for our congregation's military personnel. A complete list with addresses is available at the Information Center Kiosk.

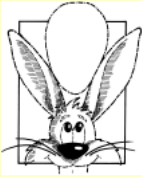
CARING MEAL MINISTRY

Are you, or someone you know, going into the hospital? Do you know someone going through a difficult time who could use a home-cooked meal? A free meal can be delivered directly to someone's home. Contact Bette Keys, 485-5694.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The Stephen Ministers of our congregation stand ready to provide confidential, supportive assistance to those wishing for someone with a listening ear. If you wish to consider having a trained Stephen Minister of our congregation to walk with you on your journey to wholeness, please call Lois Armstrong, 496-9414.

Family Ministries



Things are *HOPPING* at VPC

March 27th: Mother–Son Fishing Trip! 6:30am (!) Take advantage of this great bonding experience - a 4 hour inshore fishing experience. Moms, you don't have to bait lines, touch fish, or bring any tackle. It's all included in the **\$25 per family** charge. Invite folks you know to be a part of this great experience! Sign-up begins today on the patio. See pastor Ruffin after worship for more details.

March 28th: Palm Sunday. The VPC Children are processing with Palms and singing in the 11 a.m. worship! Stop by the Family Ministries Table and pick up a CD of the music - we want every child to lift a voice to the Lord!

April 1: Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m. Don't forget to sign up for the Seder Dinner on the Ministry Patio. Childcare available for the service..

April 3: Venice Eggstravaganza, 8:45 AM. We'll meet up at Centennial Park Downtown and participate in the Venice Mainstreet annual tradition. Pack a picnic lunch for the family and enjoy the fellowship.

April 2: Good Friday Service — 2 PM *The Jesus Film for Kids* will be shown in Fellowship Hall along with a brief message following, especially for our children 5th grade and below. Refreshments will be served and childcare provided during the film and for the Maundy Thursday worship service in the sanctuary.

April 4: Easter Sunday. Families meet in Fellowship Hall at 10am for refreshments and a puppet show. At 10:30 we'll proceed out to the playground for the egg hunt! Then on to Easter worship and Children's Church with fun Easter crafts and games.

SAVE THE DATE! June 14-18, in the morning. Join us for Hero Headquarters 2010 and share an amazing week with SUPER children age 3—5th grades. Volunteers are needed! Can you help with POWER PROJECTS (crafts), SUPER SNACKS, CREW LEADERS, Sharing AMAZING BIBLE HEROES, etc. Contact Melanie Stepp, 492-3019 or ask for Judy in the church office, 488-2258.

Sunday Morning Worship

Worship is a large part of who we are as the body of Christ across all generations! The key connection point for all our Family Ministries is on the patio at the Family Welcome Center. This is a clearly marked area outside the sanctuary for children and young people; drop on by to:

- Sign-in your children
- Pick up your child's name tag
- Get flyers about upcoming events and opportunities
- And of course... We will welcome visitors and give them directions and instruction for where their children can go and where to pick them up.

A NURSERY IS

AVAILABLE for children two and under in the Infant/Toddler Building. All parents are encouraged to stop by the nursery to sign in your children and pick up a beeper for our attendants to contact you if the need should arise.



Pastoral Team

Chris Romig, Senior Pastor
Worship and Discipleship

Lyn Olson, Pastor
for Community Life

Ruffin Stepp, Pastor for
Missions and Family Ministry

Burke Johnson
Assistant Pastor

Chuck Moffett
Assistant Pastor

Howard Taylor
Assistant Pastor

Ministry Staff

Warren Apple, Director of Music Ministries **Kim Curran**, Treasurer, Business Manager

Elders Serving on the Session

Buildings & Grounds

Wil Bernstein, Mary Jo Perkins, Steve Steitz

Community Outreach

Denny Kalgren, Donna Pirozzi, Jack Starks

Congregational Care

Lois Schmoe

Family Ministries

Judy Edmunds, Kathy Wood

Fellowship /New Members

Dick Armstrong, Marika Fries, Jean Pereira

Finance

Carl Shook

Ministry

Peggy Held, Barbara Ives

Mission

Glenn Breitzig, Jim Weeks, San Yoder

Personnel

Richard Gilbert, Bonnie Johnston

Prayer

Ruth Smith

Spiritual Growth

Marge Kaprive, Chris Thomas,

Neill Thomasson

Worship

Patricia Barron, Melba Martin, Peg Moffett

Clerk of Session

Martha Bonham



www.venicepresbyterian.org

Worship with us!
Sundays
8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM
111 Firenze Ave. E.
Venice, FL 34285
488-2258